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IDEA-0077

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DEC 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CI Staff

25X1A

ATTENTION :

[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT :

Memo from [REDACTED] dated 14 November 1960;
subject: "Alleged Presence of U-2 Aircraft in
Wiesbaden, West Germany"

1. Development Projects Division objects to the proposal contained in referenced memorandum for two reasons:

a. It would appear that the logical authority in Germany to make such an announcement is the Commander in Chief, USAFE, and by agreement with USAF and State Department, Air Force participation in any public releases on the U-2 has been carefully avoided. Even if the announcement were to be made by the State Department at Bonn, it would undoubtedly have to quote Air Force as the source in view of the fact that the site concerned is an Air Force Base.

b. To make such an announcement at this time would be in direct contradiction to a denial made in 1956 by the then CINCUSAFE, General Tunner. On or about 10 July 1956, the Soviets protested that a high altitude USAF jet flying from Germany had penetrated its air space. General Tunner issued a flat denial that any Air Force planes under his command were so engaged. This denial was public and quite possibly would be recalled by interested persons in Germany.

2. Despite the fact that the Air Force publicly denied U-2's were stationed at Wiesbaden, it was a matter of common knowledge in the area. The hangar used by the Detachment at Wiesbaden Air Base was so close to the road that it would have been difficult to conceal completely the presence of the aircraft there. For this reason it would not have been difficult for a person outside the base to take a picture of the aircraft. The point here is that it might be difficult to prove that the passing of such information was in fact a compromise of a military secret, if it went no further than the disclosure that the planes were there. It might be mentioned that the pictures of the U-2 appeared consistently in the Japanese press as well as in aviation publications.


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3. To sum up, it is Development Project Division's position that, based on the facts given, the value to be gained by such an announcement is not sufficient to warrant official involvement of the USAF or chance that the contradiction mentioned above would be noted.

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for STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD

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